

We claim:

1. A moving evaporation control cover for at least one fluid  
5 containing receptacle for use in a clinical analyzer, comprising:  
a pliable cover capable forming a sealing relationship with the fluid  
containing receptacle, wherein said cover moves with said receptacle; and  
one or more rollers in contact with the pliable cover.
- 10 2. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing  
receptacle, comprising:  
at least one fluid containing receptacle;  
a pliable cover capable forming a sealing relationship with the fluid  
containing receptacle, wherein the cover moves with the receptacle;  
15 one or more rollers in contact with the pliable cover; and  
at least one of:  
a drive for moving the pliable cover; and  
a drive for moving the fluid containing receptacle.
- 20 3. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing  
receptacle as claimed in claim 2, further comprising both the drive for moving  
the pliable cover, and the drive for moving the fluid containing receptacle.
4. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing  
25 receptacle as claimed in claim 3, wherein the drive for moving the pliable cover  
comprises a motor which drives the one or more rollers.
5. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing  
receptacle as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:  
30 a backing support on the side of the pliable cover which is opposite the  
fluid containing receptacles, wherein the backing support provides rigidity to the  
pliable cover when it contacts the fluid receptacles.

6. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pliable cover is an endless belt and further comprising at least two rollers, wherein the endless belt wraps around the rollers to reverse direction.

5

7. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pliable cover is a sheet rolled up around the roller and comprising a mechanism for engaging a leading edge of the sheet with the receptacle or a receptacle holder.

10

8. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the sheet unrolls from the roller as the receptacle or receptacle holder passes by the roller.

15

9. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a wiper for contacting the pliable cover and removing any liquid on the cover.

20

10. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the receptacle is a cuvette for use in a diagnostic or chemical analyzer.

25

11. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 10, wherein the cuvettes are multiple cuvettes.

30

12. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the receptacle is a microtiter plate or strip assay.

35

13. A moving evaporation control cover and fluid containing receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the drive for moving the fluid containing receptacle includes a fluid receptacle holder.

14. A clinical analyzer comprising:  
a cuvette conveying station for moving one or more cuvettes through the analyzer;  
a metering station for metering sample and/or reagents into the  
5 cuvettes;  
an analyzer for analyzing the sample in the cuvettes; and  
an incubator for incubating a sample in the cuvettes, wherein the incubator comprises, a pliable moving evaporation control cover capable of forming a sealing relationship with the cuvette containing the sample being  
10 incubated, and one or more guides in contact with the pliable cover to support and control the direction of the cover.
15. A clinical analyzer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the one or more guides are rollers.
- 15 16. A clinical analyzer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the one or more guides are guide rails.
17. A clinical analyzer as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a  
20 drive for moving the pliable cover.
18. A clinical analyzer as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pliable cover is an endless belt and further comprising: at least two rollers, wherein the endless belt wraps around the rollers to reverse direction; and a backing  
25 support on the side of the pliable cover which is opposite the cuvettes, wherein the backing support provides rigidity to the pliable cover when it contacts the cuvettes.
19. A clinical analyzer as claimed in claim 18, wherein the endless  
30 belt is rubber.
20. A method of eliminating or reducing evaporation from a fluid containing receptacle in an incubator of a clinical analyzer comprising:

providing a fluid containing receptacle having a sample to be analyzed in an incubator of a clinical analyzer;

providing a pliable cover for the fluid containing receptacle;

engaging the pliable cover and receptacle in a fluid sealing relationship  
5 with one another;

moving the sealed cover and receptacle a predetermined distance;

disengaging the cover and receptacle.

10